

EPISODE #94
August 26, 1993

The Valley 66 COMIC

N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

'THAN THOU'S OF HISTORY

① HOLIER...
(ca. 33)



TURN THE
OTHER
CHEEK

② WEALTHIER...
(ca. 1780)



LET
THEM
EAT
CAKE

③ MORE
DYSFUNCTIONAL...
(ca. 1990s)



ARE YOU SURE
YOU'RE OWNING
UP TO ALL OF
YOUR ISSUES?
HOW 'BOUT ALL
THAT AIR I
SEE YOU
BREATHING?

John Bene ©1992

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:
BEYOND POLITIX
OF ARMS AND MEN
THE STUPID ECONOMY
OF MEN AND ARMS
H₂O Ho Ho

INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
IZZY GESSEL'S HUMOR ME,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
DREAM WORLD NEWS,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
LOCAL HEROES,
BRASS & FERN
EARTHWEEK



Chives Summer Squash Lettuce Celery

Green Beans Cucumbers

Zucchini Walnuts Grapes Watermelon

Chilis Sweet Corn Bananas Oranges

Mushrooms Oregano Potatoes

Peaches Plums

Blueberries

Cherries Strawberries

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Squash Watermelon Grapes Cucumbers

Lemons Apples Pecans Raisins

Asparagus Broccoli Cauliflower Eggplant

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

2000
2001
2002
2000

(Mike Chrisman is not on vacation, but we're running a version of a previous column anyway, because it concerns a matter of utmost national importance.)

Well, we're almost done with 1993, and that can only mean one thing: it's time to name the next decade. No, I don't mean the nineties, dummy; that's *this* decade. And they already have a name: The Nineties. I mean the *next* decade—those years with the zeroes in them. The ones hardly any of us had a look at last time around. The ones your Uncle Buster gets laughs with when he scrunches overlike an old geezer and says, "I remember back in aught-six, sonny...." That's how you spell it, you know: "Aught." I looked it up. You probably always thought Uncle Buster was saying "ought," which shows you don't read the dictionary nearly enough, and your literate friends probably think you're a loser.

Frankly, the fact that I have to come to you with this important spelling information just confirms my low opinion of every year since 1969. So if you can tear yourself away from the TV for five minutes, maybe you can redeem yourself *and* make that contribution to civilization you've always fantasized about. Here's how. You can play "Name That Decade," and become one of a small group of people (Joan of Arc, Catherine of Aragon, Oprah of Chicago) who has changed the course of history.

To play "Name That Decade," simply think up an awesome name that the next decade will go by for the remainder of recorded time. I offer the following as examples:

The Pre-Teens. The perfect name for something that comes before (or "pre-") the teens. Examples of this usage of "pre-" in everyday language include the common words "pre-mature," meaning "before you're mature;" "pre-monition," meaning "before you have a monition," and "pre-vent," meaning "before you install a bathroom fan."

The Post-Nineties. Admittedly, a variation on "Pre-Teens". This term would adequately describe something that stands solidly, like a post, so the nineties couldn't get loose and wreak havoc in the next decade, like the sixties did with the seventies until Nixon was re-elected.

The Nothings. Or (for the benefit of our Hispanic friends) The Nadas. People would have a lot of fun with this one. They'd make clever variations on the Nothing theme: The Zips, The Goose-Eggs, The Shut-Outs, etc. You (in the role of your beloved Uncle Buster) would scrunch overlike an old geezer and tell your nieces and nephews, "I remember back in zilch-six, sonny...."

The Ohs. Or (in hip, illiterate, advertising lingo) The Oze. This is my personal favorite, and I really hope it catches on in the future. Imagine the opportunities to use "oze" in normal conversation:

"Hey, diya see that show on holovision last night?"

"Huh-uh. What about?"

"Nudity in the oze — first the president, now the Pope."

"Thermal, man; I'm sure psyched I live in the oze; Grandma says it's like the sixties."

See how easy it is to play "Name That Decade?" Now just send your personal suggestion to me, in care of this newspaper, and then wait until our distinguished panel of judges gets out of jail and awards you the prize. Just kidding about our judges. They're not distinguished at all. The winner (or winners, in the event the judges kill each other) will receive many valuable rewards, including a large footnote in every history book on the planet. Plus, your literate friends might quit thinking you're such a loser.

The Valley Comic News

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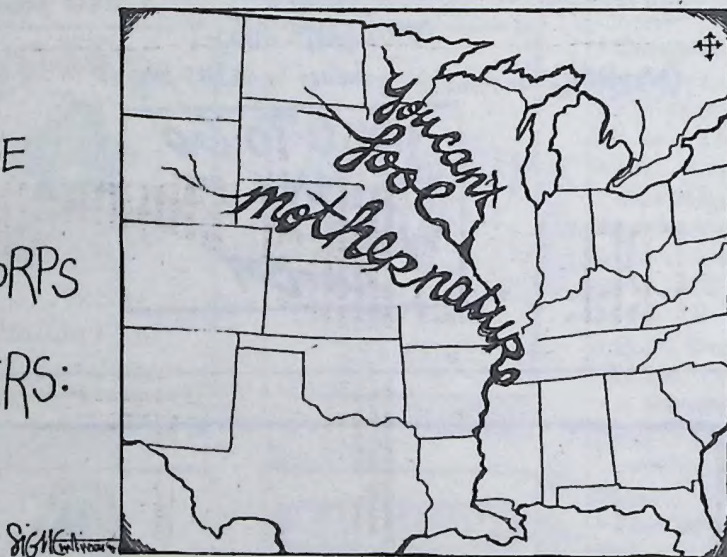


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TO THE
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OF
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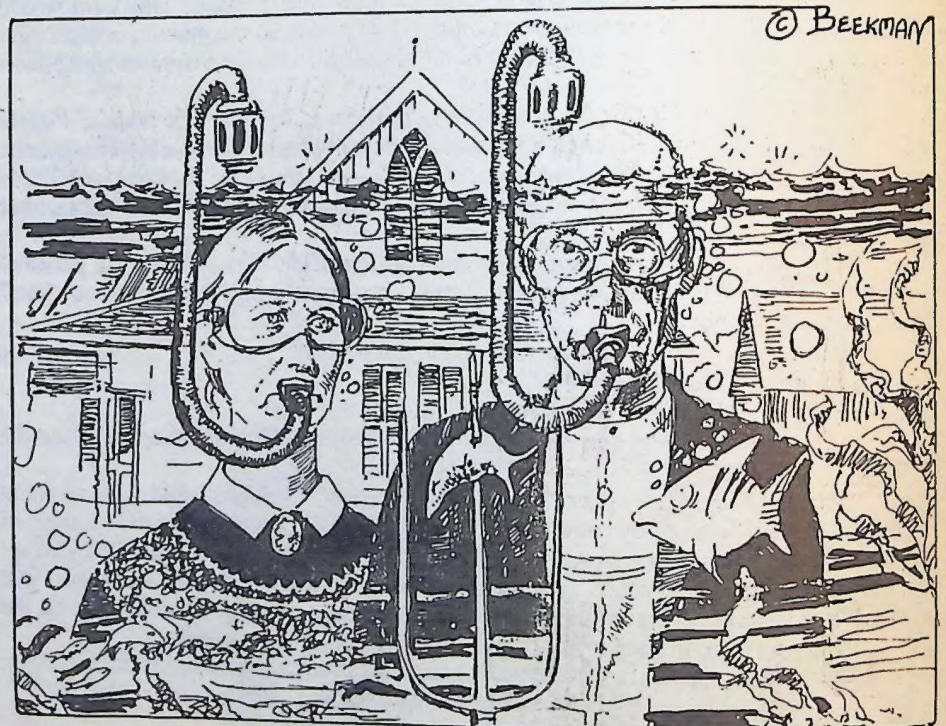


Sign Continuum

THE RIGHT SIDE



F. JAMES CORWIN '93 ©



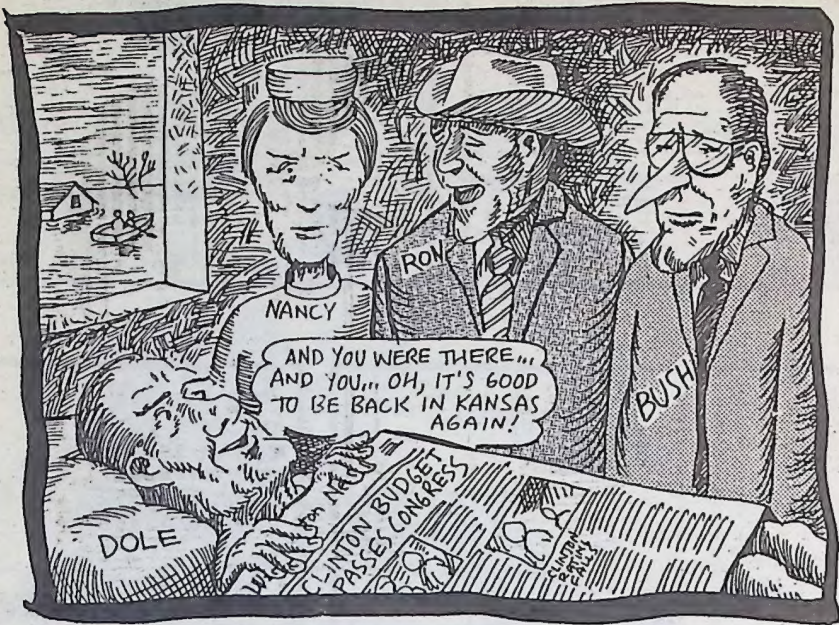
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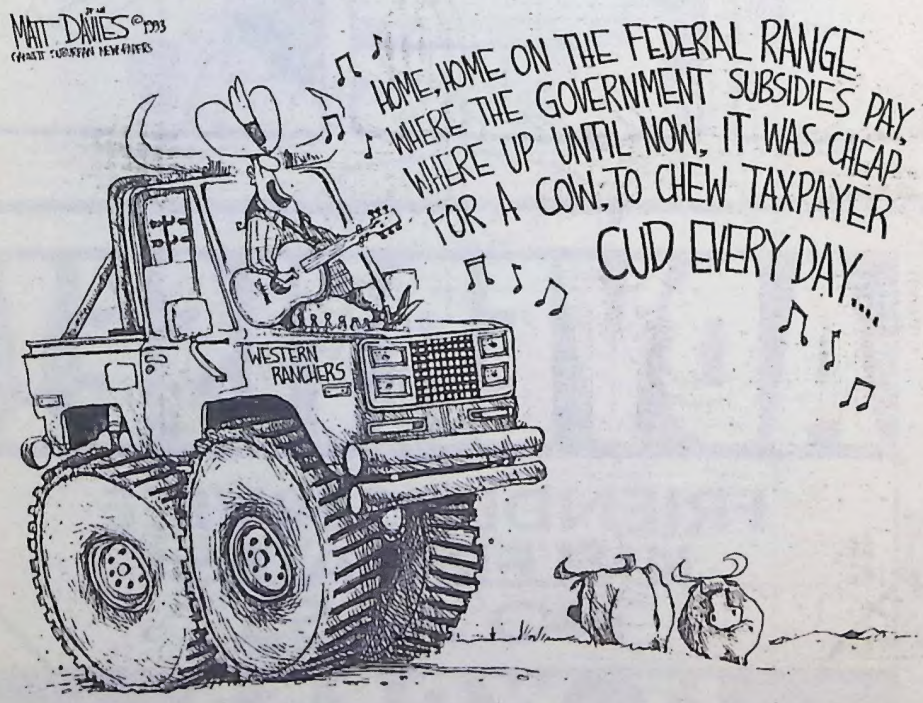
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THE STUPID ECONOMY

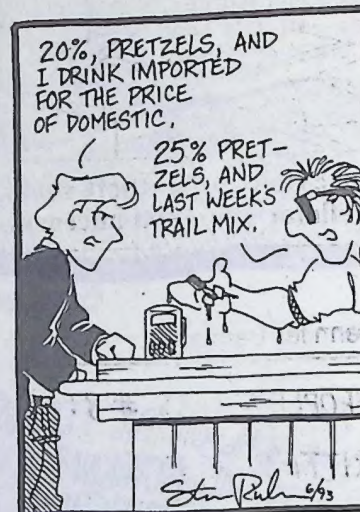
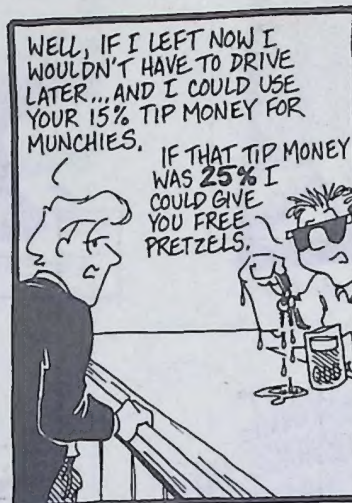


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By Steve Riehm



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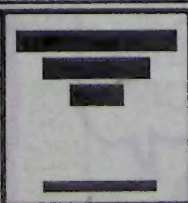


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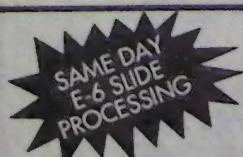
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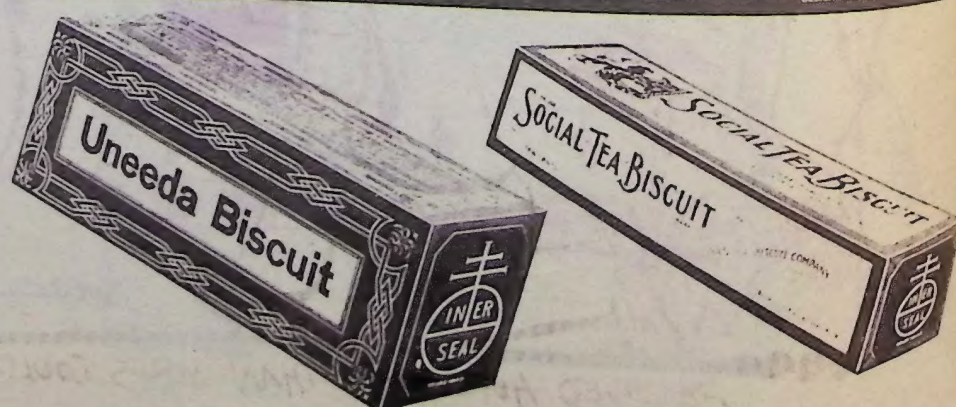
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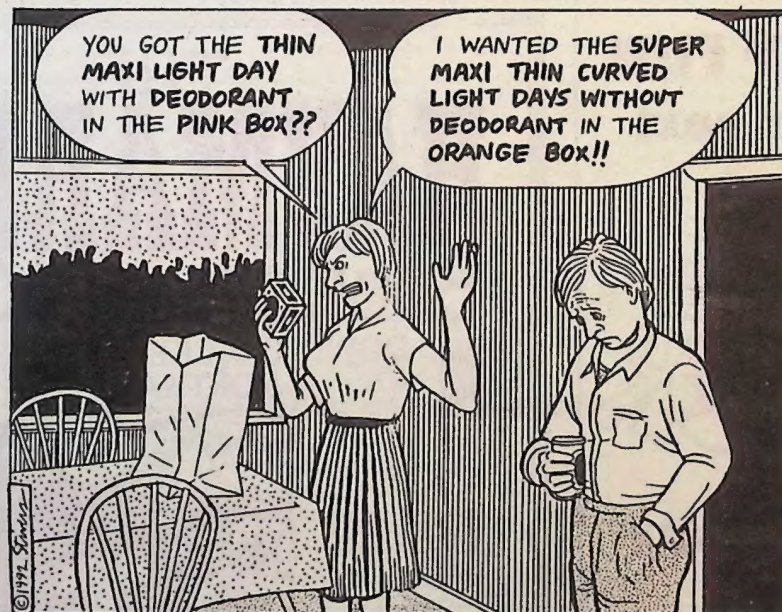
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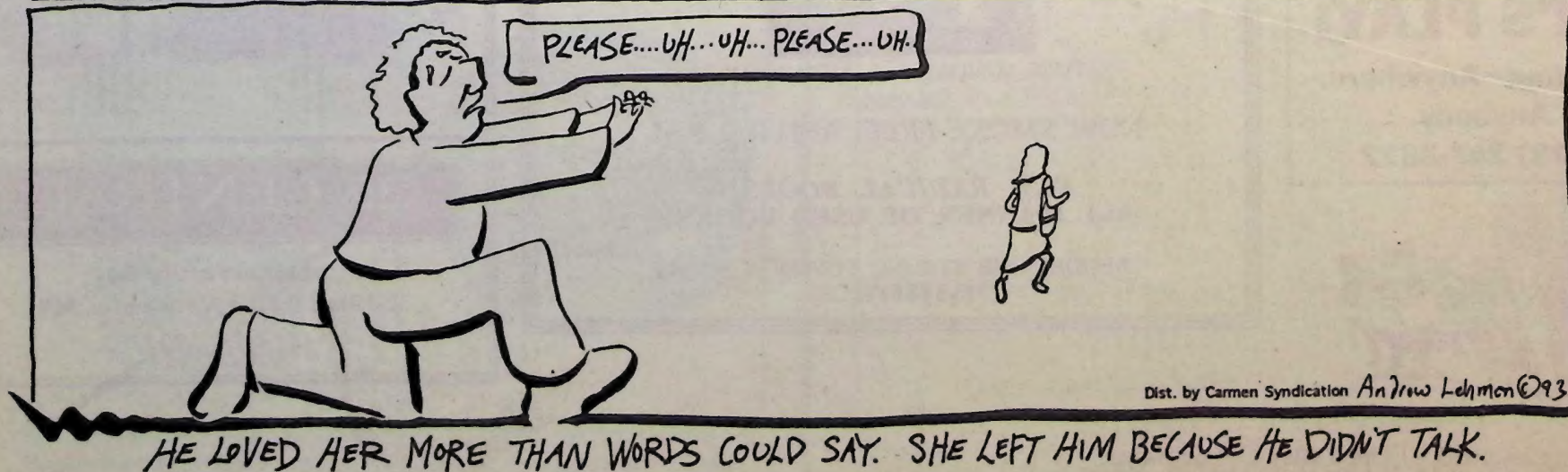
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STIVERS



LEHMAN



THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

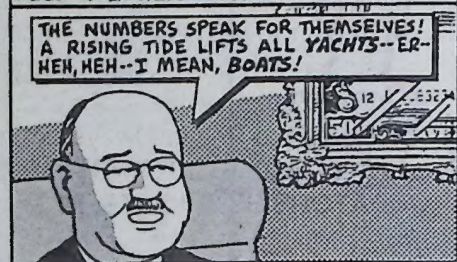
THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 8-3-93

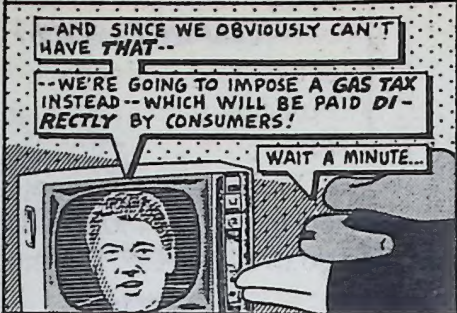
THERE'S AN OLD SAYING THAT "EVERYONE WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN, BUT NO ONE WANTS TO DIE"... WHICH PRETTY WELL SUMS UP HOW AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT THE DEFICIT...



WEALTHY AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SQUEALING LIKE STUCK PIGS OVER A MARGINAL RISE IN THEIR TAX RATES... POINTING TO THE ALLEGED CREATION OF 18 MILLION NEW JOBS DURING THE REAGAN/BUSH YEARS AS PROOF OF THE NEED TO LOWER UPPER-INCOME TAXES...



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THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 8-3-93

"THIS MODERN WORLD" HAS BEEN GETTING A LOT OF MAIL LATELY FROM CONSERVATIVES WHO SEEM TO BE ANGRY AT US FOR THINGS BILL CLINTON HAS DONE...THEY OFTEN LUMP US IN-TO THE AMORPHOUS CATEGORY OF "YOU LIBERALS," WHICH APPARENTLY ENCOMPASSES ANYONE TO THE LEFT OF, SAY, BOB DOLE...



IN FACT, WE HAVE TO ADMIT--IT'S PRETTY DARNED UNFAIR THAT THE NATION'S CORPORATE-OWNED MEDIA ARE SO THOROUGHLY DOMINATED BY LEFT-WING VOICES SUCH AS OURS...



OF COURSE, WE CAN'T BLAME READERS OF DIFFERING POLITICAL PERSUASIONS FOR FEELING THREATENED BY THIS CARTOON...SOMETIMES WE OURSELVES ARE A LITTLE OVERWHELMED BY THE AWESOME POWER WE WIELD...



YES, IT'S CERTAINLY A ONE-SIDED DEBATE...WHICH IS WHY, AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO OUR LONG-SUFFERING CONSERVATIVE READERS, WE'RE HAPPY TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING READY-TO-MAIL COUPON--DENOUNCING THIS VERY CARTOON...

DEAR EDITOR:

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JOE BOB BRIGGS

Did you know that the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Indian tribe has its own gambling casino in Bowler, Wisconsin?

In fact, is there any Indian tribe left in the whole country that does *not* have a gambling casino? Every once in a while, somebody tries to stop the Indians from building a bingo hall or a poker parlor or a video-poke saloon and gift shop, and they get *furious*. They don't get mad, like, "We've got to defeat this stupid zoning ordinance." They get mad like "You're destroying our Indian heritage and violating all our ancient treaties."

The Winnebagoes got real upset this year because the state of Minnesota denied them a permit to build a "gaming facility" at that tourist mecca — De Jope, Minnesota. And so the "chairperson" of the tribe — they don't even have *chiefs* any more —

made a statement to the press.

"We're making progress," she said. "This time they didn't take our land. They just won't let us use it." And then she talked about all the battles the Winnebagoes had fought against the white man in the past, like this was just one more stop on the Trail of Tears.

Did I miss something here? When did all the Indians decide that an essential part of their culture was the right to sell slot machine tokens to rummies based in from Akron?

I thought the whole idea of the reservation was so they could preserve their way of life, *without the white man hanging around*. But these Indians not only *want* the white man to come to the casino. Judging by the kind of odds they're offering, they want the *stupidest* white man to come visit.

A big-deal progressive slot

payoff at the Ojibwa Casino Resort in Baraga, Michigan, is something like thirty or forty thousand. They used to have better payoffs at the *illegal* casino in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Anyhow, my question is this. How did *all* the Indians decide to do this at once? Did they have secret meetings at Little Big Horn where they said, "Okay, you sell blackjack to the Indian farmers — I'll take craps in Iowa"? Or, like most Indian things, maybe it was purely spiritual. Maybe the Great Spirit of the West Wind spoke to the Sioux chieftains and said, "Build huge buffet-style cafeterias right next to the baccarat room."

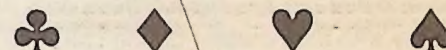
And one more question. How come the manager of the casino never looks like he's *really* an Indian? It's always one of those guys who looks like he never shaves or takes a bath, but he's wearing a thousand-dollar suit

anyway.

When the Pilgrims landed, wasn't the idea that the white people destroyed the Indians' innocence? Wasn't the Indian supposed to be the guy who didn't drink or gamble till white people corrupted him?

What kind of Indians are these anyhow?

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, PO Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is always open: 214-368-2310. COPYRIGHT 1993 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. What is it a bloodhound actually smells when it tracks a human being?
A. Bacteria in the 50 million skin cells that slough off daily — they give off the odor.

A newborn grizzly bear cub typically weighs 15 ounces.

When the well-to-do European of Christopher Columbus' day bought pepper, it was priced per single peppercorn.

Of the 44 settlers who founded Los Angeles in September of 1781, 26 were of African descent.

Albert Einstein in a letter asked Sigmund Freud if humans could be conditioned psychologically to prevent wars. Freud wrote back: No.

There's nothing new about the industrial practice of assembling foreign cars in the United States. For eleven years, mostly in the 1920s, the Rolls Royce was put together in Springfield, Mass.

Nine out of ten American fathers now stay with their partner during childbirth.

Q. Who thought up the bright idea of giving engagement rings to prospective brides?

A. Diamond sellers in medieval Italy.

Aristotle said, "Make love in a south wind to beget a girl, in the north wind for a boy."

Russian police had women they arrested fill out questionnaires to learn whether they had anything in common. The most frequent answer: "drunken husbands".

The "gallon" in ten-gallon hat goes back not to gallons, but to the Spanish "galones" meaning the cloth braids that decorate the crown.

Q. What makes storm clouds look so dark?

A. Ice crystals. They block the light.

In New York City, a law to keep drivers' eyes on the road makes it illegal to leave a naked mannequin in a store window.

What you and I call a "black eye" is known as a "blue eye" in German and a "poached eye" in French.

Antarctica is bigger than China and India combined.

In ancient Wales a woman was permitted to divorce her husband if he had bad breath.

A federal regulation stipulates that ketchup has to flow three centimeters in 30 seconds to be rated Grade A.

Q. What's that silvery stuff you scrape off scratch tickets?

A. Latex.

The most recent Super Bowl had all of 15 minutes and 42 seconds of football action.

A Roman Catholic scholar, Lucius F. Cervantes, S.J., wrote: "The higher a woman's IQ, the more she is likely to be masculine in outlook. The higher a man's IQ, the more likely is he to be feminine in outlook."

Sea level — in the middle of the ocean — varies by as much as 600 feet.

It was Clare Boothe Luce who said, "A man's home is his nursery."

Both Geraldo Rivera and Julio Iglesias are lawyers.

The great writer Willa Cather stipulated in her will that none of her books could be issued in paperback.

The yellow brick road in "The Wizard of Oz" was a roll of linoleum.

In northern climates, the deep ground thawed in May. That's when the remains of those who died during the winter could be buried. Engaged couples respectfully delayed their weddings until after the funerals. So June became the traditional marriage month.

The statesman Benjamin Disraeli acknowledged the receipt of a book by sending this note: "Many thanks for your book. I shall lose no time in reading it."

The U.S. President makes \$548 a day.

Will Rogers noted, "Liberty doesn't work as well in practice as it does in speeches."

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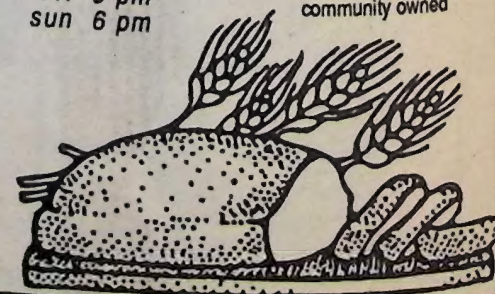
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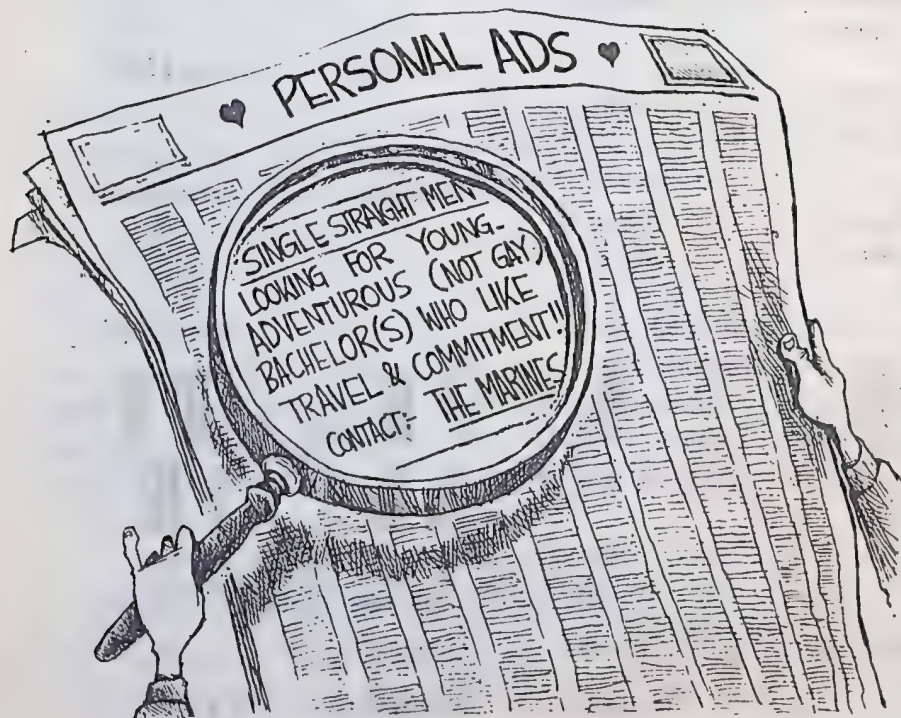


OF ARMS AND MEN

OH COME ON, AT LEAST
YOU HAVE YOUR FOOT
IN THE DOOR...



SMILE 3/75



TERRIFIC! AT LEAST THAT
CONFLICT'S CLEARED UP!

NOW LET'S SEE IF I
CAN REACH A COM-
PROMISE WITH THESE
FELLOWS AS WELL...



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SUN 5*

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MON 6

PINETOP PERKINS

FRI 10

TONY VACCA & TIM MORAN

SAT 11

MOSE ALLISON

SUN 12

MOUTH MUSIC

TUE 14

QUEEN IDA & HER
BONTEMPS ZYDECO BAND

WED 15

THE HARPER BROTHERS

THU 16

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THU
TWENTYSIX

Vertex: Selectrocution Charlemont Inn: open mic Seven O's: country karaoke North Star: Latin Night, w/ DJ Alberto Bay State Hotel: Honey Barbara, Architectural Metaphor Summit House: Springfield Chordsmen (barbershop) Pearl Street: dancing, w/ DJ Dennis R. Dave's Other Place: Bloodshot Moon

FRI
TWENTYSEVEN

Hotel Northampton: Mark Maulucci, Tom Savoy Bay State Hotel: John Sheldon & Blue Streak Pearl Street: Janis Ian Iron Horse: Aztec Two Step Green River Cafe: Rob Skelton & guests Dave's Other Place: Kalimba Island Jazz Vertex: After Forever (Black Sabbath Tribute) Charlemont Inn: The Bobby Darling Show 7 O's: Flagstone

SAT
TWENTYEIGHT

Bay State Hotel: Bay State Cabaret — Drag Strip Riot! starring New Bomb Turks, Angry Johnny & The Killbillies, Greenhorn 7 O's: Flagstone Vertex: Selectrocution Green River Cafe: George Davis Hotel Northampton: Tom Savoy, Dave Brunelle Dave's Other Place: Busman's Holiday Iron Horse: Cheryl Wheeler Pearl Street: dancing, w/ DJ Pete D. North Star: Philip de Fremery Charlemont Inn: Ruby Porter-Phelps-Huntington House: Mareile Fenner & James Sibbison (Baroque music) Northampton Center for the Arts & Oyé Productions: Danse Afrique

SUN
TWENTYNINE

Seven O's: open mic Green River Cafe: Klezimir Pearl Street: The Bay City Rollers North Star: Andrea Nathenson, plus Girlz Night Out w/ DJ Betsey Vertex: Vibratory Disturbance, Part I — Skunkjuice, The Mighty Sturgeon, Sugar Plum Dandy, The VVD Iron Horse: Cheryl Wheeler

MON
THIRTY

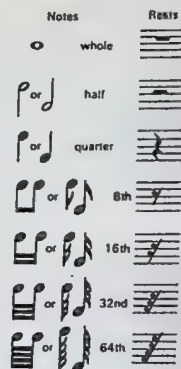
Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Art Steele Blues Trio (Fab Heavys are on vacation) Iron Horse: Acoustic Junction North Star: country/western dance nite (reggae, cowboy)

TUE
THIRTYONE

Iron Horse: Extremos (the floating nightclub) North Star: Boyz Night Out w/ DJ Mike Pearl Street: Under-21 Dance Night w/ DJ Dennis R. Bay State Hotel: The Cheetahs, Raymond & The Circle, √ Please! Northampton Center for the Arts: Dick Clark Look Park, w/ Down Five, Mal Thursday and the Cheetahs, Justina and Joyce, Lesley Smith, The Young at Heart Chorus, Judy Polan, √ Please!, Two Rude Girls, Art Steele, Brian McCullough, Buddy Rubbish, Leo T. Baldwin, Johnny Memphis

WED
O N E

Iron Horse: PVFS Open Stage Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing w/ DJ Dennis R. Bay State Hotel: Bay State Cabaret — Pangloss, Amanda's Dirty Secret, Cliff Dweller Vertex: Gay Night w/ Selectrocution North Star: O-Tones — swing dance

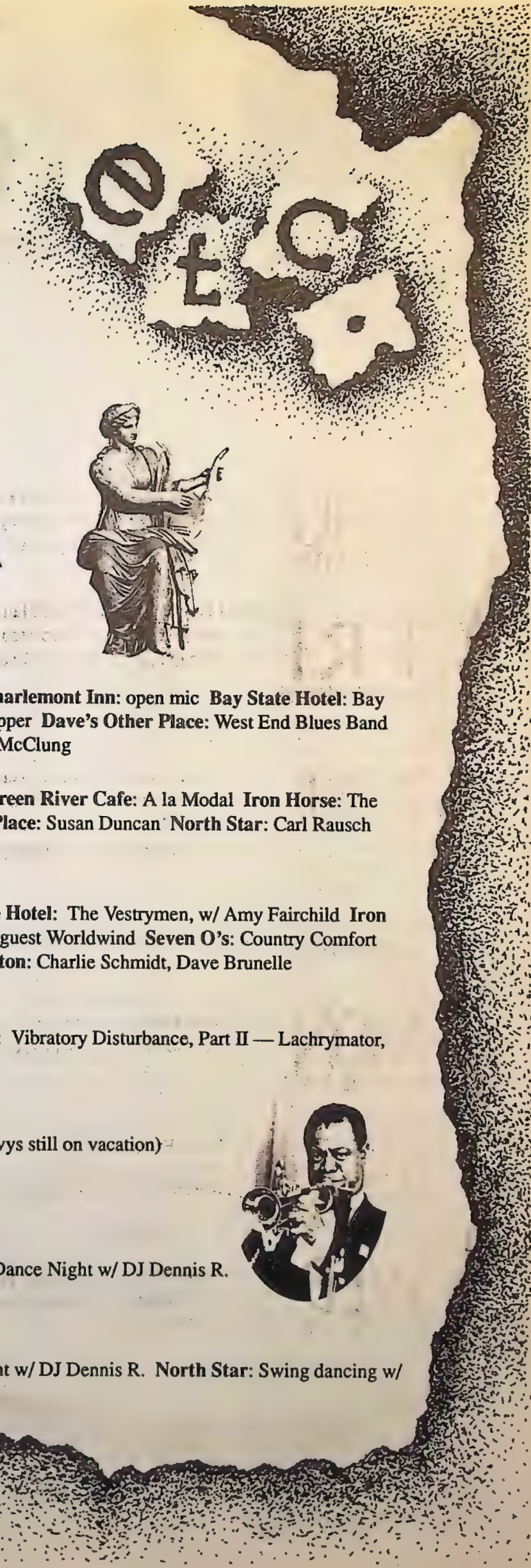




Joe Keenan at Pearl Street



Tobey photo



THU
TWO

Vertex: Selectrocution North Star: Latin Night w/ DJ Alberto Charlemont Inn: open mic Bay State Hotel: Bay State Cabaret — Roger Manning, Zeke Fiddler, Tom Shea, Hulapopper Dave's Other Place: West End Blues Band Seven O's: country karaoke Summit House: Andy Jaffee & Tom McClung

FRI
THREE

Bay State Hotel: Reggae dance thing — New Horizon, Uproot Green River Cafe: A la Modal Iron Horse: The Holmes Brothers Hotel Northampton: Montenia Dave's Other Place: Susan Duncan North Star: Carl Rausch jazz band 7 O's: Country Comfort

SAT
FOUR

Dave's Other Place: Joe Sallins and The Boys of Blues Bay State Hotel: The Vestrymen, w/ Amy Fairchild Iron Horse: Tom Paxton Green River Cafe: James Durst, with special guest Worldwind Seven O's: Country Comfort Vertex: Selectrocution North Star: dance night Hotel Northampton: Charlie Schmidt, Dave Brunelle

SUN
FIVE

Seven O's: Open mic Iron Horse: David Murray Quartet Vertex: Vibratory Disturbance, Part II — Lachrymator, Cameron's Way, Doom Nation, Slowpoke, Drawback

MON
SIX

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Art Steele Blues Trio (Fab Heavys still on vacation) Iron Horse: Pinetop Perkins

TUE
SEVEN

North Star: Boyz Night Out w/ DJ Mike Pearl Street: Under-21 Dance Night w/ DJ Dennis R.

WED
EIGHT

Bay State Hotel: Rock 'n' roll bargain nite Pearl Street: Gay Night w/ DJ Dennis R. North Star: Swing dancing w/ DJ Jim McD Vertex: Gay Night, w/ DJ Betsey



EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

World Floods

Ukrainian officials have appealed for international help as severe floods submerged part of the northern region of Rivne. Rain has not stopped for a month and 740,000 acres of land have been flooded.

A second week of flooding swept the Chinese provinces of Hunan, Sichuan, and Jiangsu and hundreds of people have died.

More than 25 people were killed when torrential downpours unleashed floods and landslides on the Japanese islands of Kyushu and Shikoku. Scores of homes were swept away as more than 25 inches of rain fell in three days.

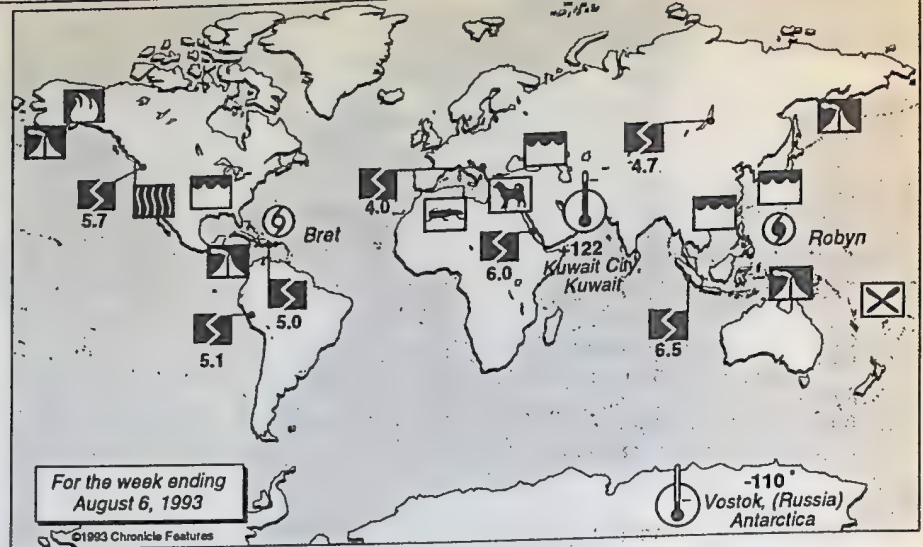
In the United States, dynamiters blew up levees to save the city of Prairie du Rocher, Ill., from the raging Mississippi River. National Guardsmen and police along the Missouri River, near Hardin, Mo., worked feverishly to retrieve dozens of corpses dislodged from flooded cemeteries along the river. Many of the displaced bodies won't be retrieved until the floods end. "You can see them floating out in the open water. It's not a pretty sight," said Sheriff Joe Arnold.

African Locusts

Locusts swarming across Africa from the Red Sea will reach southern Algeria by the end of the month. The Algerian Agriculture Ministry assembled teams of locust fighters equipped with helicopters and 500,000 gallons of pesticide to control the pests.

Heat Wave

A heat wave baked the U.S. West Coast, triggering a rash of fires throughout California. The temperature rose to 100 degrees Fahrenheit in San Francisco. Oregon farmers are attempting to harvest their \$200 million grass-seed crop before it is destroyed by the heat wave.



For the week ending August 6, 1993

Food Catastrophe

Leaf blight has struck the Samoan taro crop and there are fears that the entire crop will be wiped out. The blight attacks the taro leaves and causes the plant to ripen early. Taro, a root crop, is a major part of most Samoans' daily diet. In a television address Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana announced the formation of an emergency task force to fight the leaf blight crisis.

Dead Sea Quakes

An earthquake centered in the Red Sea shook buildings in Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. The main shock was followed by more than 30 aftershocks. Tens of thousands of people in Cairo panicked and ran into the streets after the main shock. Earth movements were also recorded in Sumatra, Romania, Puerto Rico, Peru, Lake Baikal in Russia, and Vancouver, Canada.

Ring of Fire

Sequim Volcano in Alaska's Aleutian Island chain erupted, with an ash cloud which rose to 4,000 feet. The Veniaminov volcano in Alaska also showed activity, releasing a 1,000-foot plume of ash and smoke.

Across the Bering Strait in Russia, the Klyuchevskoy volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula erupted, sending gas and steam 37 miles to the north. Russian scientists are also watching the nearby Shiveluch volcano that has recently registered increased seismic activity.

Three Guatemalan villages are threatened by lava flows from the Pacaya volcano, and scientists in Guatemala City expect a major eruption soon. The village of El Caracol, two miles away, is in imminent danger, as are the communities of El Rodeo and El Patrocinio. Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines also threw volcanic ash over towns in Luzon this week.

Raging Fires

More than 80 fires are burning in the state of Alaska. The largest fire is spreading along the Yukon River near Dalton, and covers more than 36,000 acres of wilderness. Most of the fires are monitored by officials with no attempt to put them out.

Canine Cuisine

Animal-rights groups in Israel became outraged by an entrepreneur's plans to export dogs to the Philippines, where canines are considered a delicacy. Solo Leibowitz defended his plan in the *Jerusalem Post*, claiming that "instead of killing stray dogs it would be humanitarian to fly them to Asia to feed starving people." He expects the first shipment to leave Israel in a few days. Israel has no laws banning such exports.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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DreamWorldNews

New Supermarket Item: Live War-Scarred Infants!

A San Francisco man, traumatized by an unusual supermarket display, wandered in a daze through active subway tunnels for several hours.

The man was in the poultry section of the Safeway supermarket when he noticed

live babies packed in cellophane among the chickens. Many bore wounds and severe burns from the aerial bombardment of Iraq.

Unsured if the babies were real, the man picked up a wooden drumstick and tapped one lightly on the abdomen.

"When he saw it was alive, he just stood there in a state of shock drumming on its belly," said a witness.

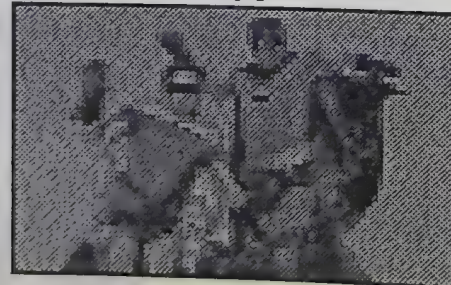
Safeway employees rushed to the poultry section and ejected the terrified man from the store.

Hours later the same man was spotted wandering through a Brooklyn subway tunnel. Witnesses say the man, still dazed from his experience at the Safeway, got off a train between stations and continued his journey on foot. He was spotted by the crew of a single-car train which was being used as a trainer for novice subway motormen.

By the time the trainees radioed in for assistance, the man had already reached his destination and left the subway.

Whether the babies in the Safeway were intended as a pro- or anti-war statement remains unclear. The Motormen's Training Union had no comment on the incident.

Dynamic Duo Make Useless Appearance



Batman and Robin appeared at the Roman Coliseum after financial criminal Michael Milken, who had been sentenced to mortal combat against a slew of gladiators, broke his bonds and rose screaming into the air.

The Dynamic Duo were dressed in costumes from their 1960s television show and appeared no more aged or paunchy than they did at the time the show was produced.

Excerpted from DreamWorldNews. For further information write Box 515, Northampton, MA 01060

Fierce Floods

Desperate officials in China's eastern province of Jiangsu blew up a dam on the Xinyi He River to release waters that had ravaged more than 1,000 villages and flooded 329,000 acres of cropland in 24 Chinese counties. In Shandong Province, 59 miners were trapped underground when water poured into the mine entrance. Major rescue efforts continued through the week.

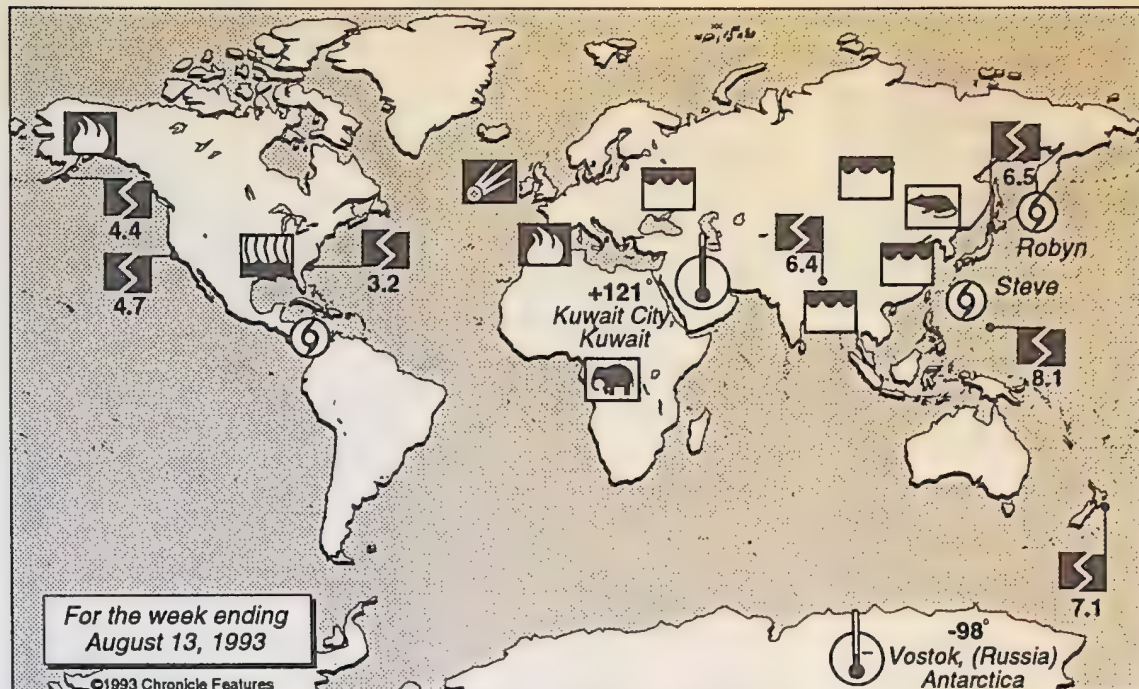
Floods in Russia's Gomel region covered more than 100,000 acres of land near the Chernobyl nuclear plant, destroying roads, bridges, and dams. The Selenga River in Russia's Buryatia Republic near Mongolia overflowed, covering dozens of villages and wrecking bridges that connect the capital, Ulan-Ude, with the outside world.

Monsoon floods and landslides swept away several villages in India and Nepal. Floodwaters damaged Nepal's largest hydroelectric project, reducing the country's electrical supply by one third.

Great Earthquake

One of the strongest earthquakes this century rocked the U.S. Pacific island of Guam but caused no deaths. The magnitude 8.1 quake damaged tourist hotels, wrecked bridges, and tossed cars into rivers. Damage forced the Joint Typhoon Warning Center to close while monitoring typhoon Steve, which struck Guam during the tremor.

New Zealand was jolted by two earthquakes that broke water mains, damaged roads and caused power outages in the city of Gisborne. There were no fatalities. Six people were killed in Nepal by two earthquakes centered in Afghanistan and felt in Russia, Pakistan, and India. Earth movements also struck San Francisco, western South Carolina, Alaska, and Japan.



Toxic Wash

Receding waters of the Mississippi River and its tributaries may contain a "witch's brew" of toxics released by munition dumps, gasoline stations, industrial concerns, and sewage treatment plants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identified 27 flooded hazardous material sites. In Chesterfield, Mo., dead fish and other waste lying in the streets caused a stench that could be smelled for several miles.

Killer Storms

Tropical storm Bret struck Venezuela, killing 150 people, then causing floods in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Typhoon Robyn triggered floods and landslides in Japan before moving on to South Korea, where 50,000 ships and boats pulled into port. Robyn then swept north and caused flooding in Vladivostok where 8 inches of rain fell in two days.

Forest Fires

Bombs left over from the Spanish Civil War detonated as a forest fire burned near Valencia on Spain's east coast. Another blaze in the mountains near Granada threatened the habitat of a rare mountain goat. Other fires burned in the province of Tarragona, southern France, the French Riviera, the island of Corsica, and Italy. A forest fire in Alaska has covered more than 158,000 acres near the community of Circle.

Elephant Escape

Up to 100 elephants joined thousands of refugees fleeing into Uganda from southern Sudan to escape the civil war. Game wardens guided the herd to safety in Murchison National Park. Elephants also have migrated to escape sporadic ethnic fighting and civil war in Zaire.

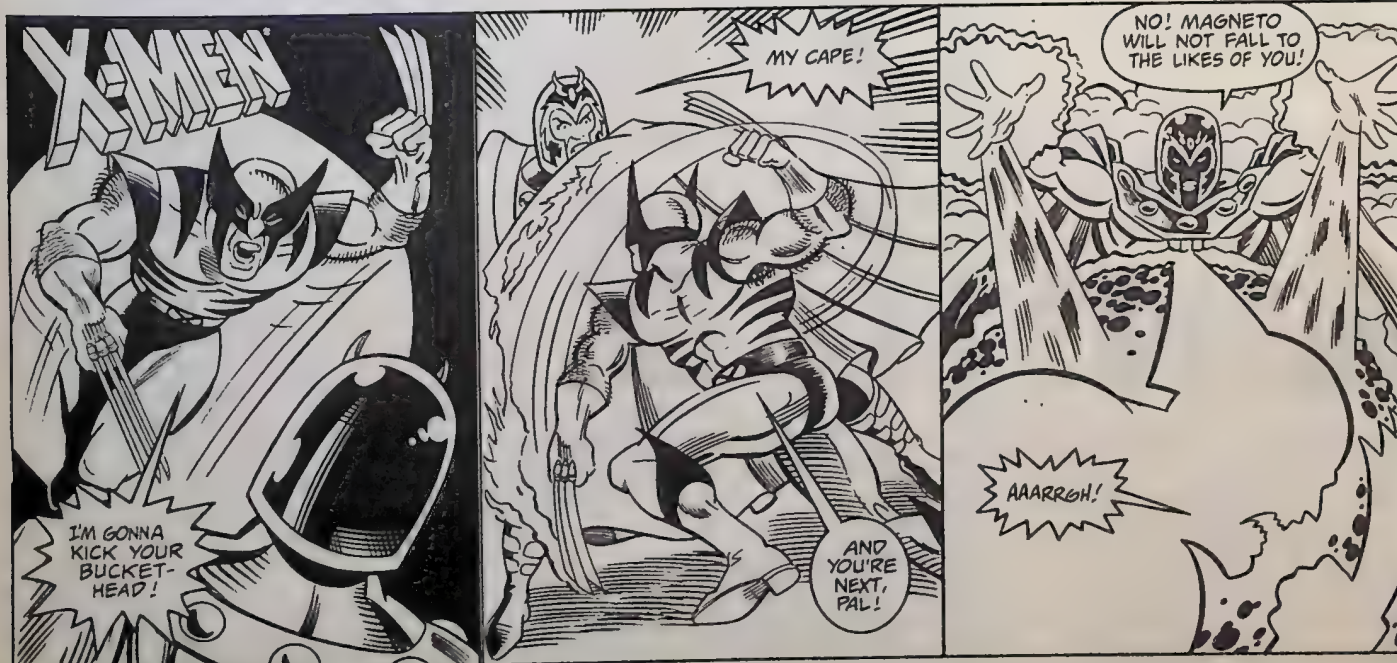
Meteor Showers

Poor weather cheated the Netherlands, Ireland, and Britain of a clear view of the Perseid meteor shower. Astronomer and broadcaster Patrick Moore said from his home south of London, "I can't see a thing. It's most annoying. I've all my equipment with me here, but it's very cloudy."

Mass Mouse Suicide

Carcasses of 300,000 mice of a species locally known as "big-eyed devils" were found dead in the waters and on the shore of a lake in China's Fuhai County. A team from the local locust and mouse disaster forecasting station saw large groups of mice plunging into rivers and lakes but could not explain the bizarre behavior. Alarmed authorities ordered an immediate investigation.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the Joint Typhoon Warning Center.



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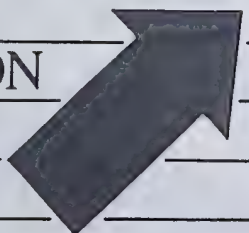
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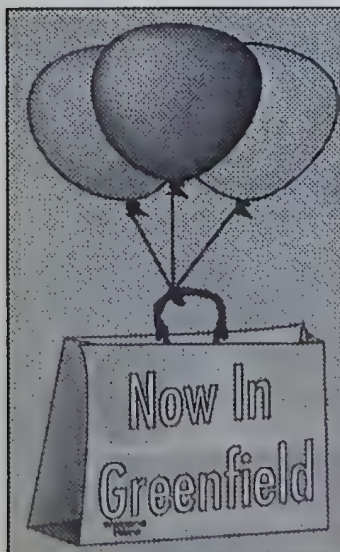
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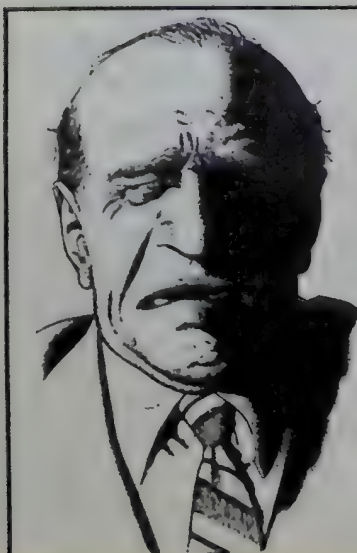
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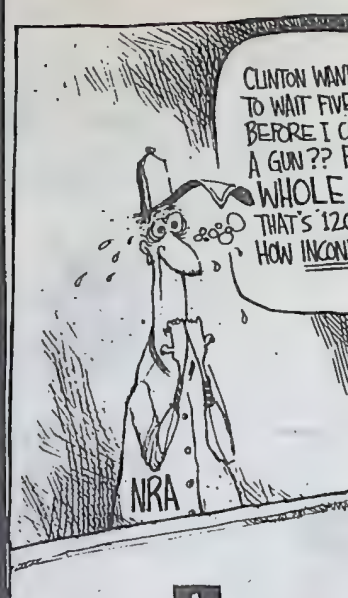
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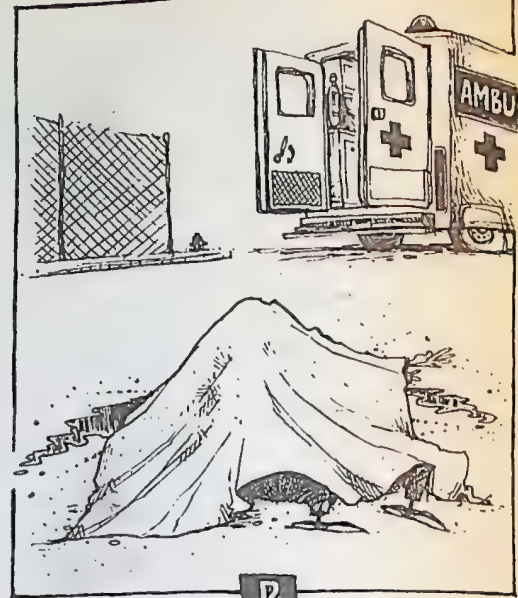
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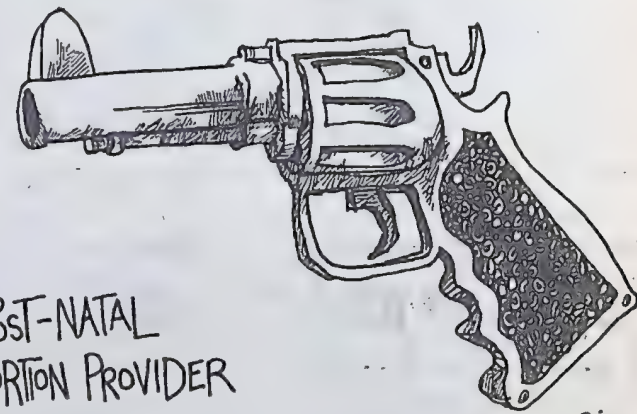
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B

A STUDY IN INCONVENIENCES

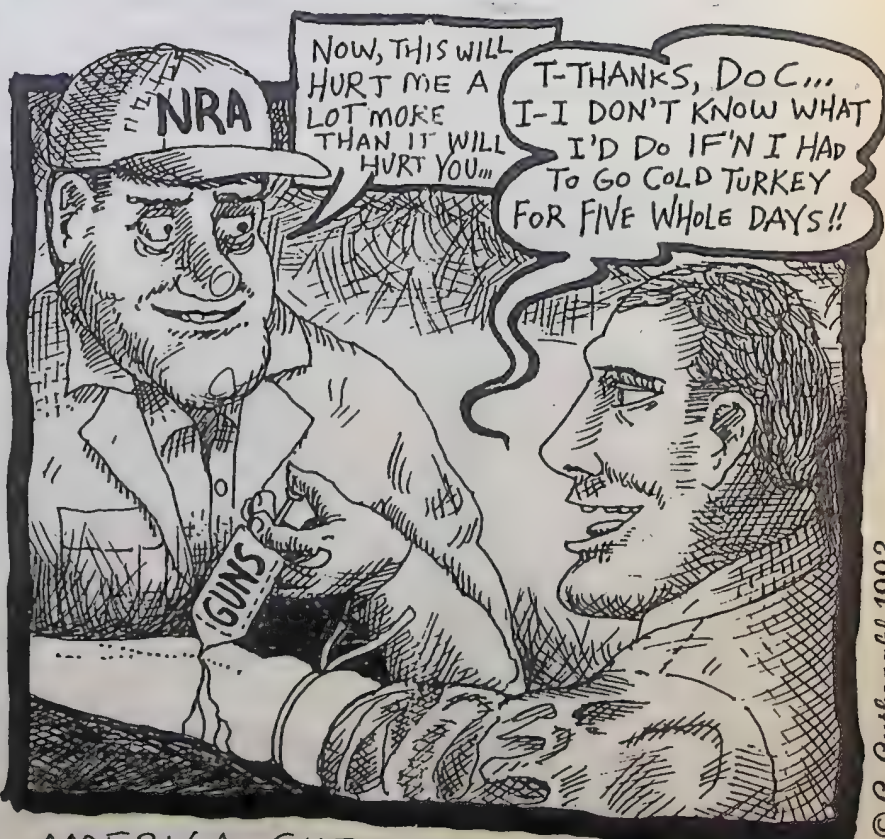
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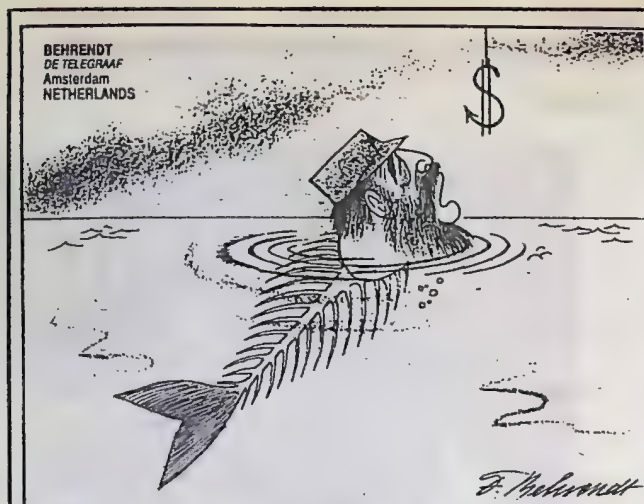
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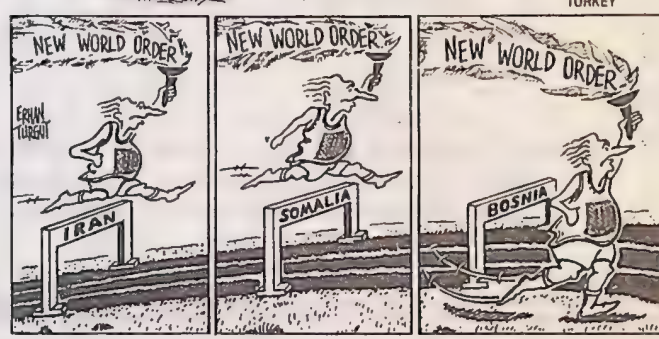
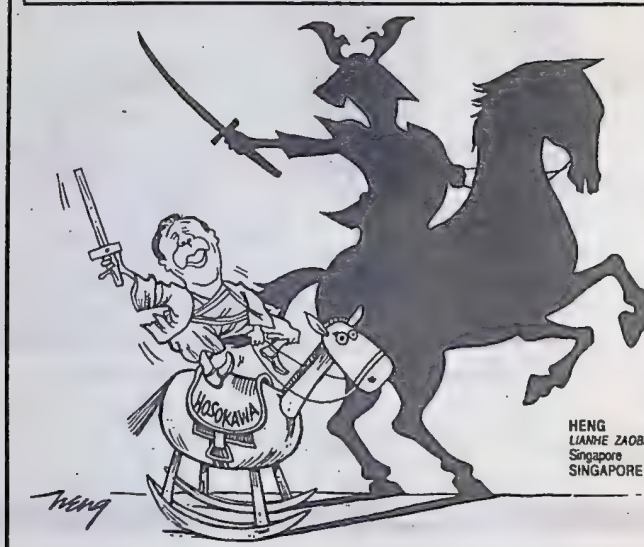
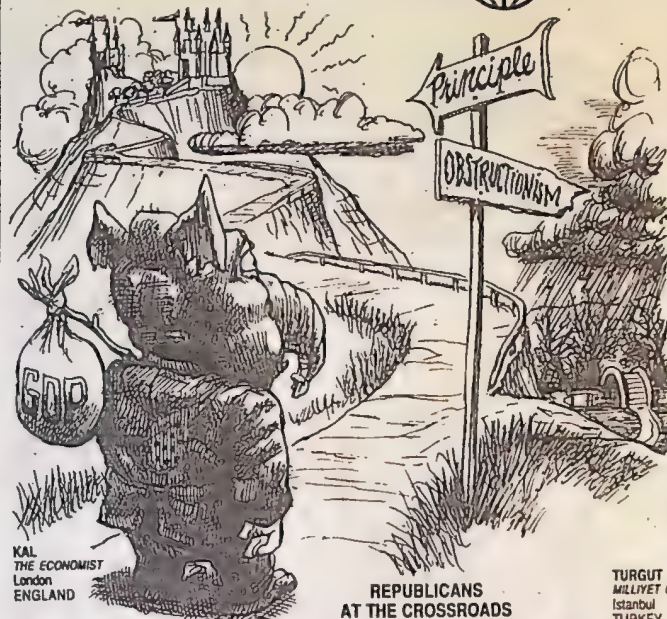
AMERICA SUFFERS WITHDRAWALS
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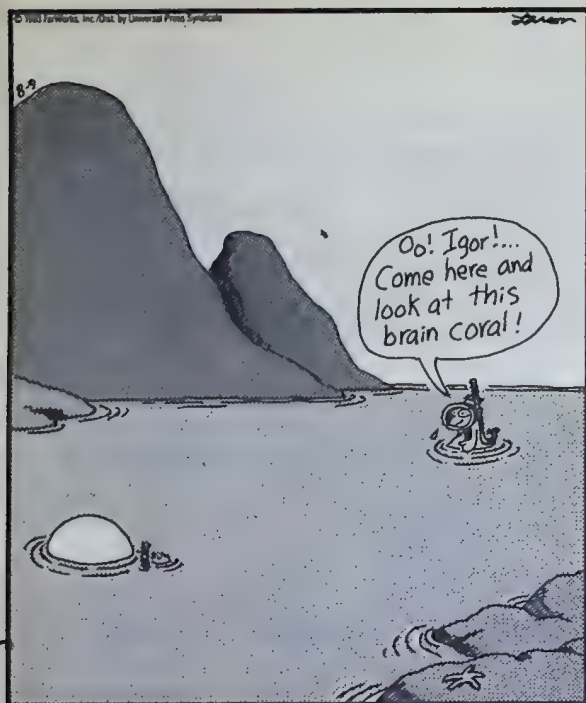
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By GARY LARSON



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"Whoa! ... Think I found the problem, buddy."

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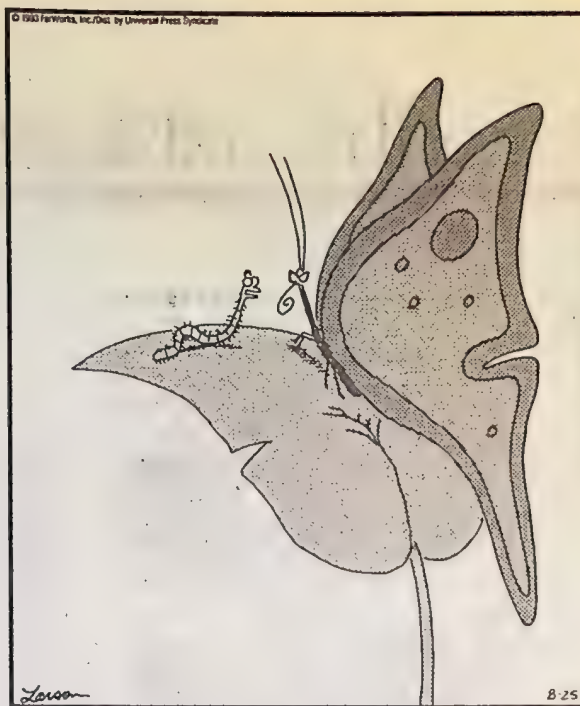
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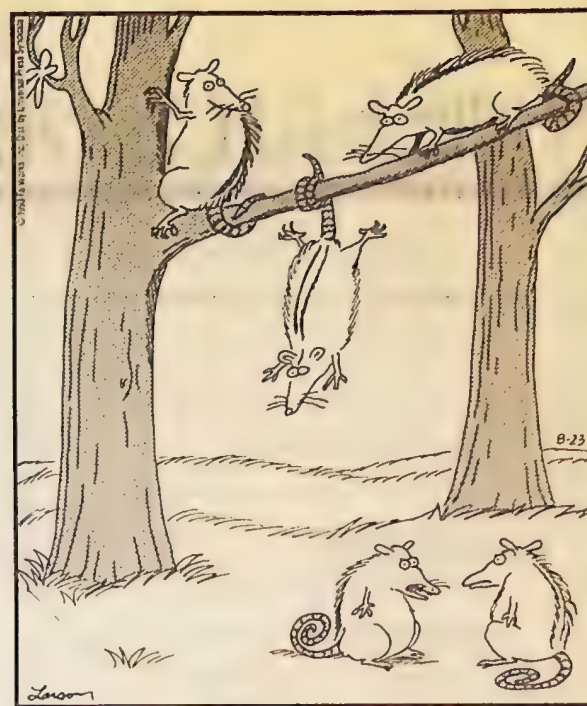
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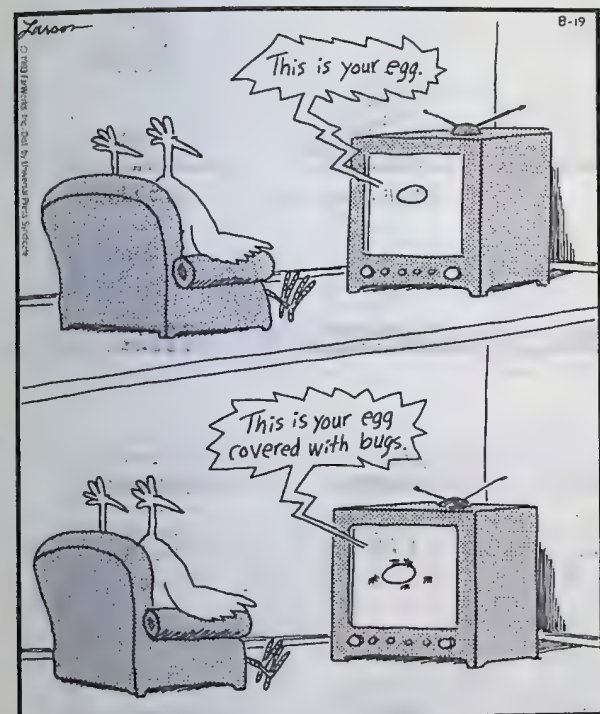
The first day at fly summer camp



"How could you think that? ... I've always been attracted by your personality."



"My dad can act deader than your dad."



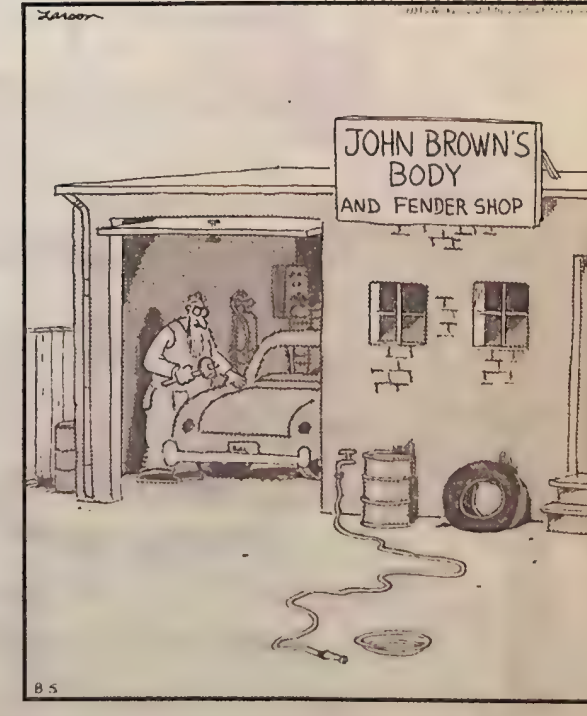
"There he goes again. ... Satan's pet."



"And down here we keep Fluffy. ... We're afraid he may have gone mad."



"Oh, look, this get better ... 'F' in history! You even flunk something not happen yet!"



When my girlfriend and I go out to get pizza, I pay for it. If I didn't we couldn't go out very much. I make more money than she does.

Sometimes she says I pay for everything so that I can kiss her at the end of the night. But that's not why I do it. Some guys think that way, but I don't.

When I kiss her something takes over my body. She has neat lips.

I don't know why I make more money than she does. She's as smart as meeven smarter than me in some ways.

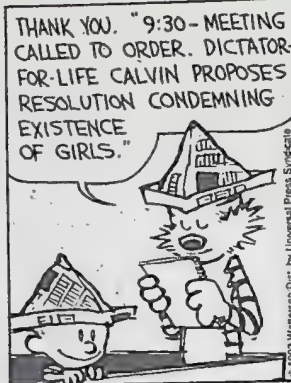
It's all confusing.

All I really do know is since last February 1st she now owes me \$123.48 for pizzas and drinks.



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATKINSON



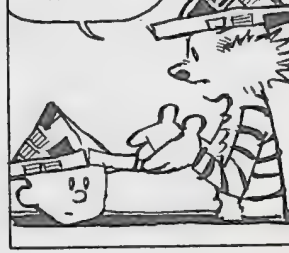
ALL RIGHT, HERE'S THE PLAN! WE MAKE UP A FAKE CODE WITH FAKE INSTRUCTIONS AND SEE THAT IT "ACCIDENTALLY" FALLS INTO SUSIE'S HANDS!



SHE DECODES THE MESSAGE, WHICH SAYS WE DON'T WANT HER TO GO BEHIND OUR HOUSE. NATURALLY, SHE'LL GO THERE, AND WE'LL BE WAITING, READY TO SOAK HER WITH WATER BALLOONS!



WHY DON'T WE JUST HIT HER WITH WATER BALLOONS RIGHT NOW, WHERE SHE'S SITTING?



YOU'RE A GOOD OFFICER, HOBBS, BUT LET'S FACE IT, YOU DON'T HAVE AN EXECUTIVE MIND.



NOW THIS IS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE A CODED MESSAGE FROM ME TO YOU, BUT WE'LL LEAVE IT FOR SUSIE TO FIND.



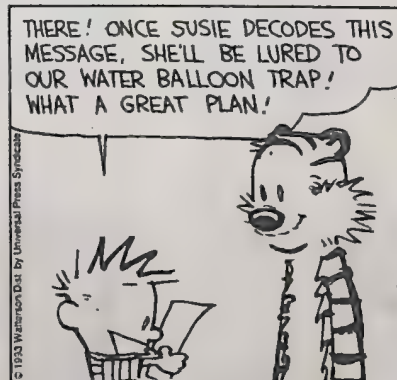
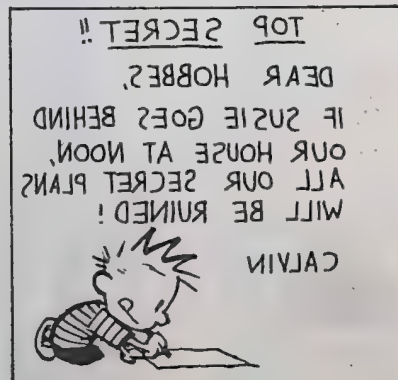
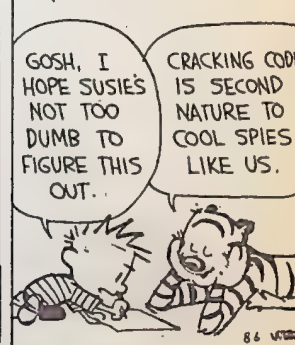
OBVIOUSLY, THE CODE WILL HAVE TO BE EASY TO BREAK, SO SHE CAN READ THE DISINFORMATION WE'RE GIVING HER.



HOW ABOUT IF WE WRITE BACKWARDS?



DEAR HOBBS?



GOOD! SUSIE'S STILL PLAYING ON THE SIDEWALK! WE'LL STROLL BY AND "ACCIDENTALLY" DROP THE CODED MESSAGE.



YES HOBBS, I HAVE A TOP SECRET, CODED LETTER FOR YOU HERE! VERRRRY MYSTERIOUS! VERRRRY SECRET!

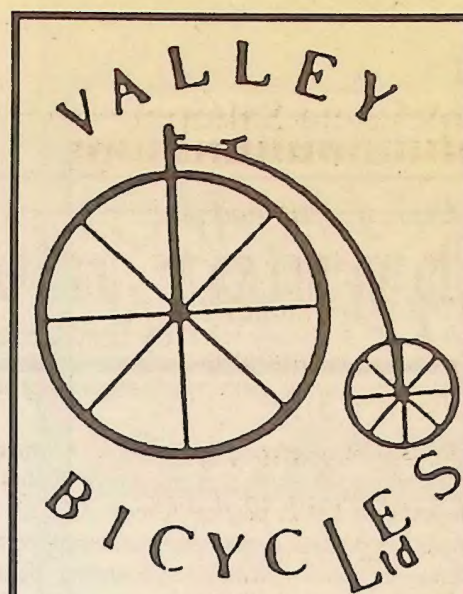
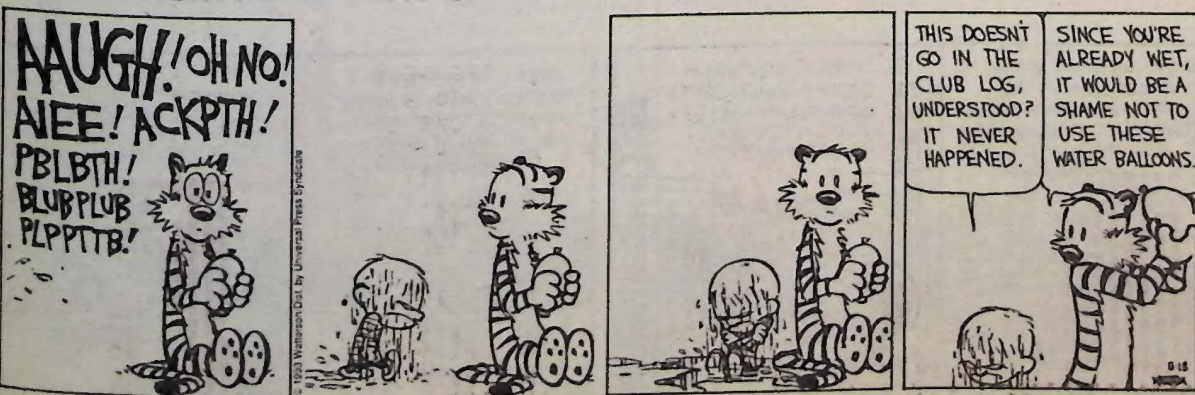
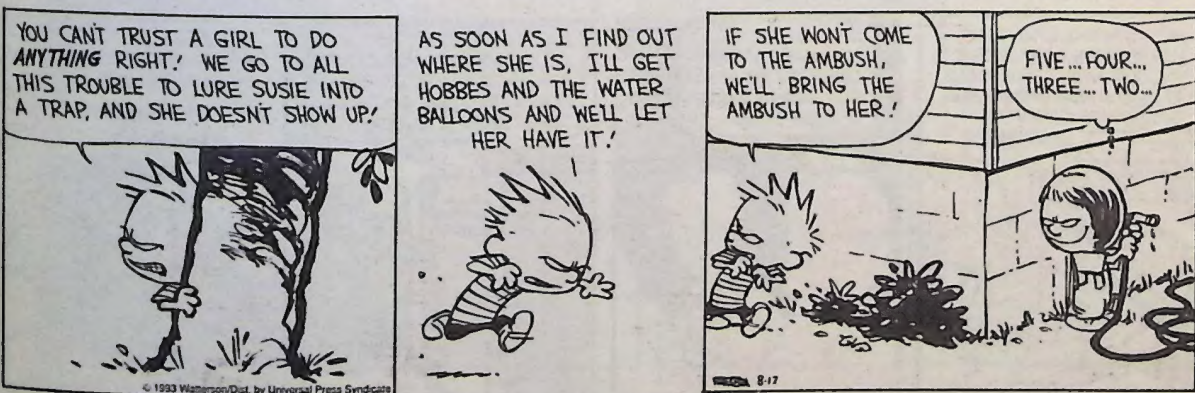
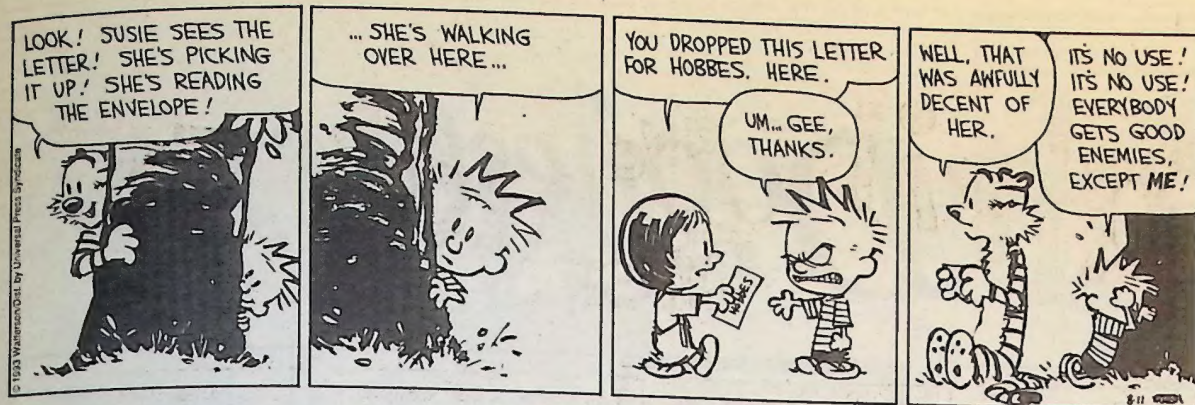


JUST MAKE SURE THE NOTE DOESN'T FALL INTO A GIRL'S HANDS! IF THE CODE IS BROKEN AND READ, OUR PLANS WILL BE RUINED!



WE DID IT! HA! EVERYTHING IS GOING PERFECTLY!





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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

(While Izzy is on vacation, we are reprinting some of his favorite columns)

I'm in a subway car under Washington, DC, traveling from National Airport toward Union Station. Part of the fun of riding public transportation lies in playing "Create A Life," the game whose object is to scrutinize, evaluate and dismiss any person whom fate brings into your line of sight. Begin by assuming you are looking through a one way mirror, like a witness at a police lineup. Making eye contact with your subject means you're out and the round is over.

Contestant number one is a male/female tandem who board the train together. The subway car is rush-hour crowded so they stand face-to-face, left hands grasping the pole, choose-up style. He is impeccably dressed, a mannequin with a working cardiovascular system. His tassled loafers are shiny enough to peek all the way up the Statue of Liberty's dress, you could clip coupons with the crease in his trousers and the ruddy glow emanating from his face indicates he has his zits professionally popped. An unscuffed leather briefcase rests gently at his feet.

On his head is perched a bad, no make that EXTREMELY bad, toupee. This is the stimulus Pavlov used to elicit the response, "Doesn't this guy realize how bad that thing looks?" To an observer, seeing that wig is akin to knowing a secret that can't be told without getting yourself in trouble. It is juicy information that is unusable.

He is talking to the woman and he is driving the conversation. "Blah blah blah, meeting I went to, blah blah blah report I read, blah blah blah committee I chaired." Lost in a kind of bureaucratic reverie that allows him to feel important, he is some sort of Bill Murray character gone to Washington.

His companion is listening to this blusterer, obviously having a hard time keeping her eyes from scaling his face and peeking at the unfortunate wig. She knows she dare not glance above his chin because a bad toupee acts like a magnet. If she went any higher than his mouth she would end up staring at the monstrosity. And that would blow the whole charade. She wears a look on her face that she might use if she were making love to someone and didn't want to laugh out loud. Perhaps, she is thinking baseball statistics.

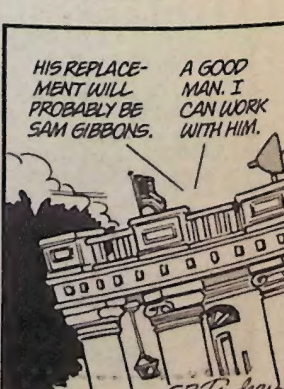
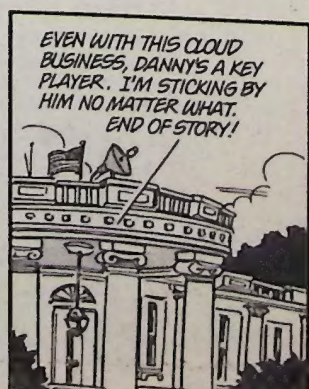
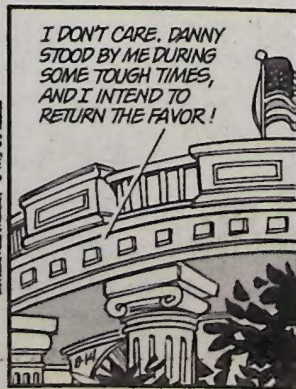
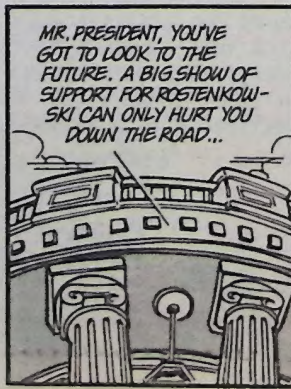
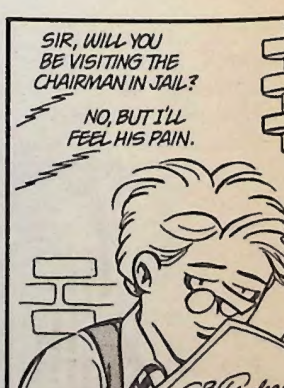
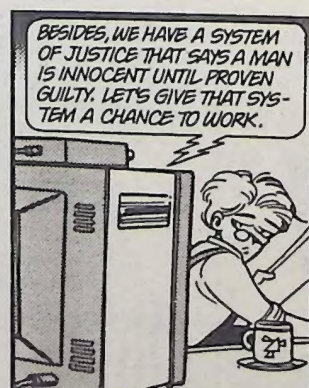
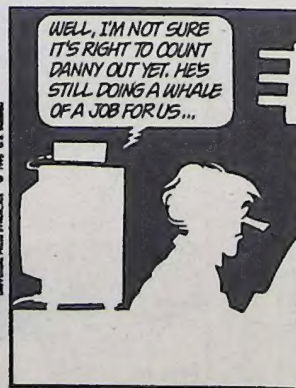
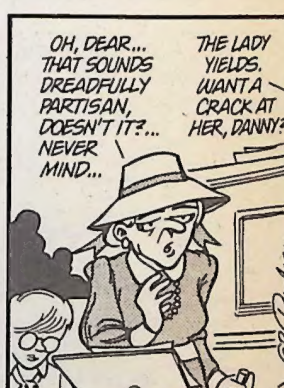
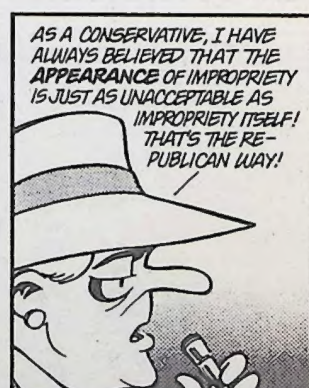
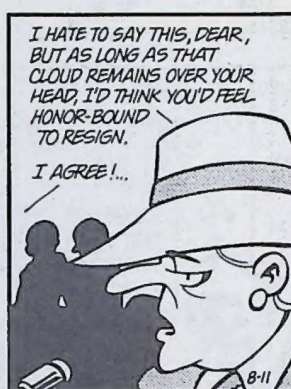
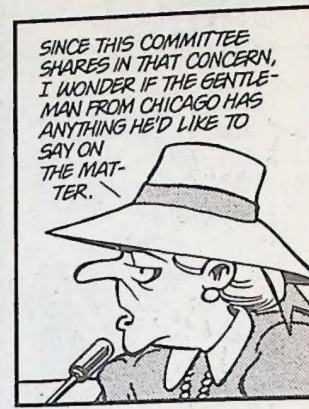
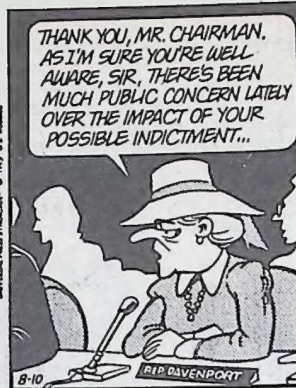
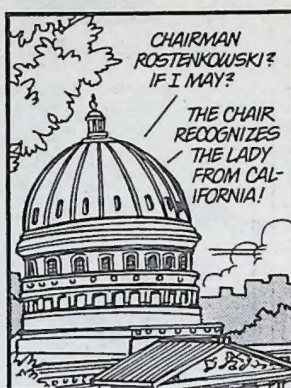
Sitting diagonally across from me, on the far side of the contestants, is a young woman in her 20's. I see her glance at the toupee, check her fingernails and then, magnetically bewitched, look again and again at the Hair Club for Men reject that is the object of both her and my scorn and amusement. Each time she looks at the piece, a small smile slides across her face, disappearing before it gets too wide and out of control.

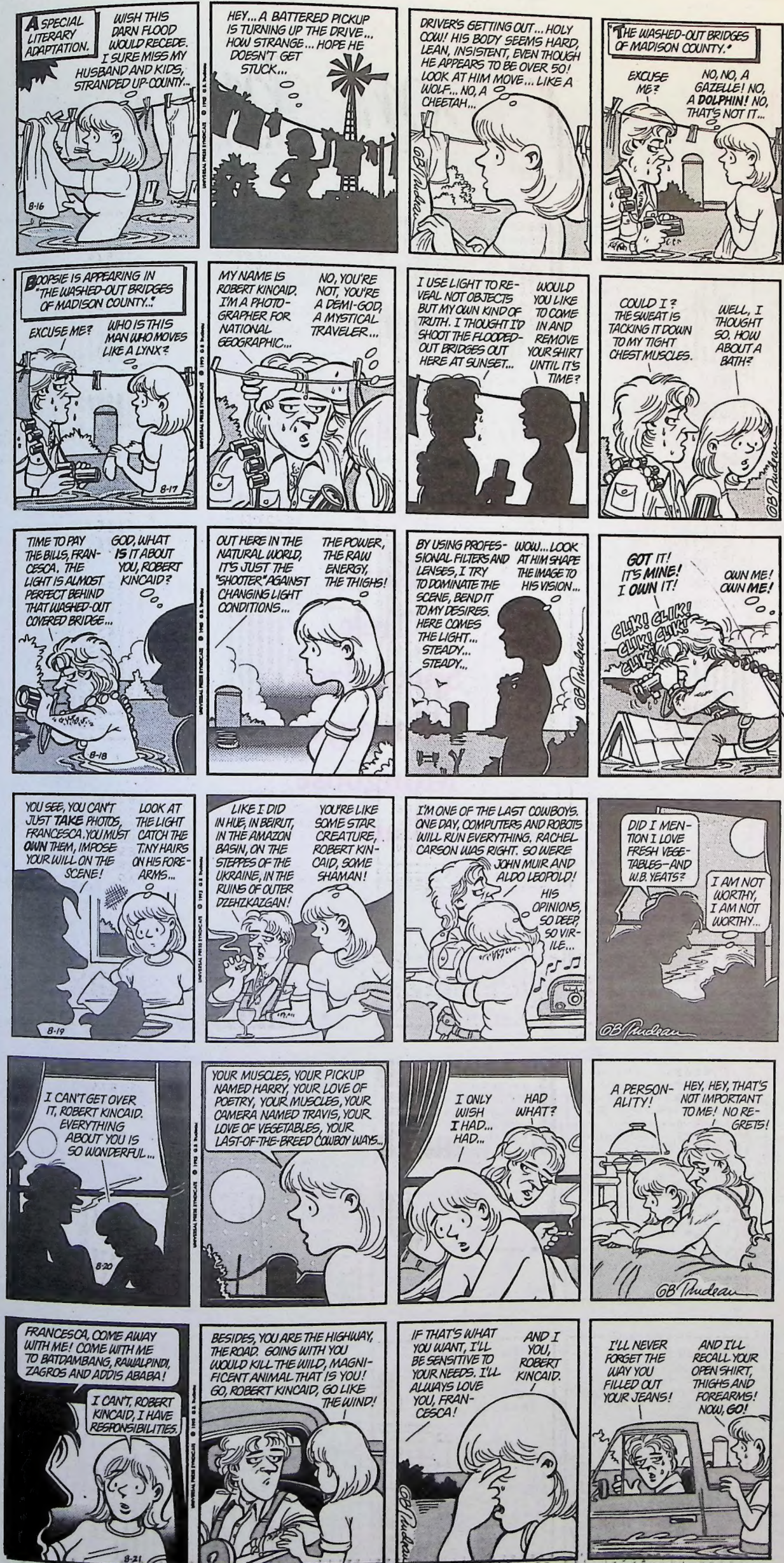
I am in total sync with this stranger. She and I are having the same experience at the very same time. Neither of us can stop looking and laughing silently. I'm now trying to avoid the guy's gaze and hers, mostly his. Finally, we lock into each other's eyes and, after a nanosecond of connection, acknowledge our shared moment by smiling at each other. Then we each politely bow our heads and pretend to be interested in the fabric of our coats.

Reflected in this person are my deepest thoughts and reactions to the toupee. Without sharing a word, I have found a fellow conspirator and colleague, someone who read my mind as clearly as if there was a TelePrompTer in my forehead. Everyone else on the Metro is making believe they either don't see the guy or else find it quite normal. My co-conspirator and I are the ones who have admitted reality and the shared smilage bonds us together like psychic crazy glue. For a split second we are lovers; vulnerable, truthful, united against the world. Laughter as the ultimate safe sex of the 90's. Ah, my dear, whoever you are. We will always have Washington.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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